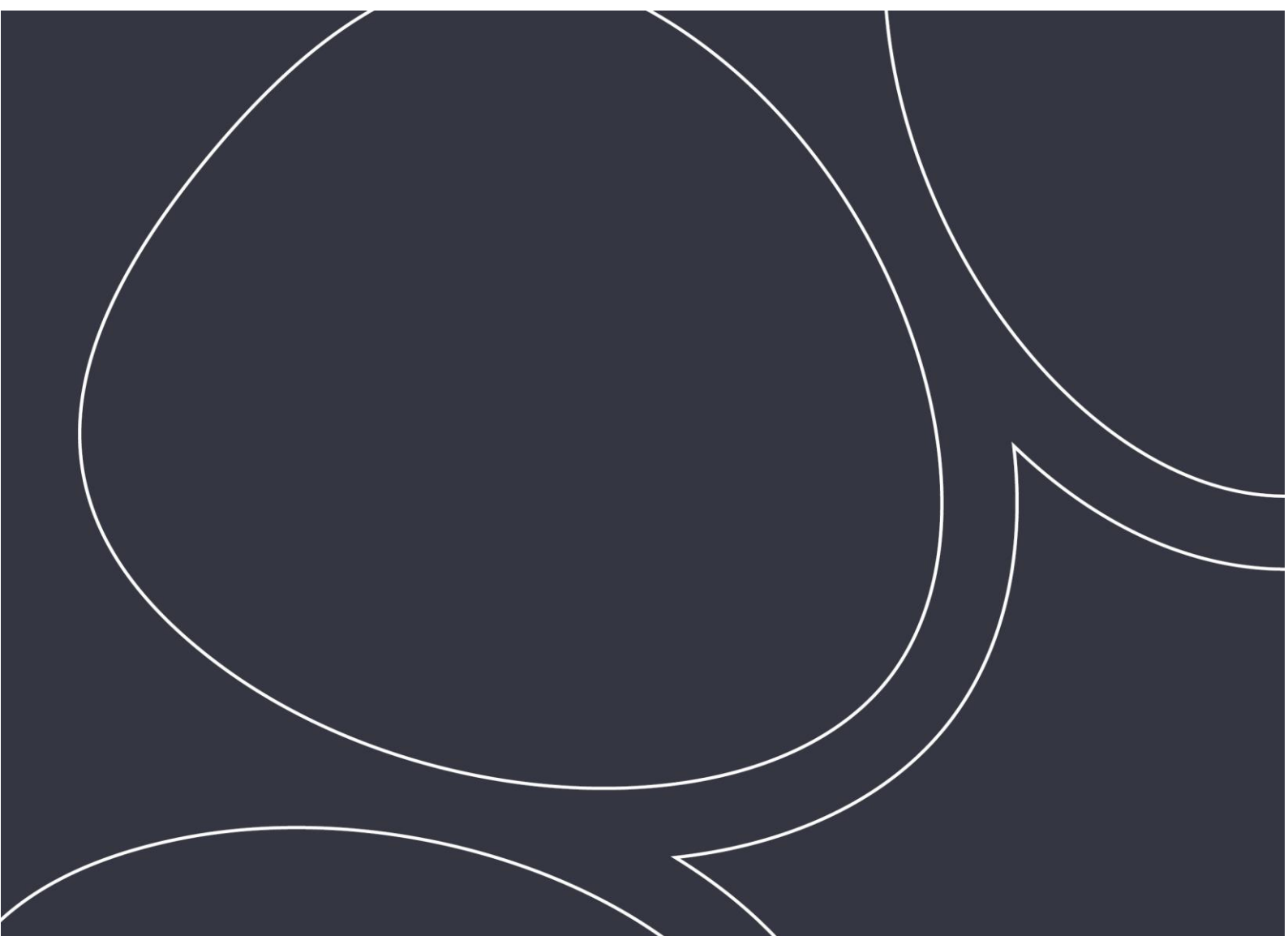


Children in Care During Emergency Events

Policy



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Version	Date	Author	Changes made
1.0	27/03/2015	Service Development and Policy	Guidance on measures to be taken in relation to children in the care of the Chief Executive Officer during emergency.
1.01	21/07/2017	Director, Policy	Minor amendments including active date from 2017 to 2015.
1.01	25/07/2017	Director, Policy	Minor amendments
1.02	05/02/2026	Operation Policy	Rebranded; removed outdated Standards of Professional Practice reference, and Departmental residential staff.

Acronym	Full form
Department	Department of Children and Families
CEO	Chief Executive Officer

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1. Purpose

To provide guidance on measures to be taken in relation to children in the care of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) during an emergency, such as a cyclone or flood.

2. Policy Statement

For the purpose of this policy:

- children are children in the care of the CEO
- carers include foster carers, family and significant other carers, and service provider staff.

Regional executive directors are responsible for ensuring children are accounted for during emergencies.

Carers should be advised that they remain responsible for the care and supervision of children in their care during an emergency and to call Central Intake on 1800 700 250 if they have evacuated from their normal place of residence, to ensure they remain in contact with Department of Children and Families. Carers must advise the local office if they are unable to continue providing care during or following an emergency.

3. Pre-disaster phase

Carers are required to develop a household plan to prepare for emergencies. The plan should be consistent with Northern Territory Emergency Services advice to the public.

Children should be moved to an emergency shelter at the appropriate time if the carer home is not coded to withstand an impending emergency event.

The regional executive director is responsible for ensuring a list of all children currently in care in their region (including details of the child's current placement) has been created in the lead up to an emergency event.

4. Impact phase

Children are to shelter safely with their carers during an emergency event – in the carer's home, the residential care facility, or at a public emergency shelter. Children should be moved to an emergency shelter by the carers if their place of shelter is damaged during an emergency event. Carers should use their own judgement whether they can safely move to an emergency shelter, or require the assistance of emergency services personnel.

5. Post disaster phase

The regional executive director will identify an appropriate officer to contact all carers to determine that children in care are safe following an emergency event. If carers cannot be contacted, the children must be visited to confirm their safety.

The CEO is to be notified if a child is injured during an emergency.

The CEO is to be provided with the details of all children who cannot be accounted for within 48 hours of an emergency event.

6. Legislative basis and related documents

[Care and Protection of Children Act 2007](#)